

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W
-----125965 221644Z /44

R 221316Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9954
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

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FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O 11652: N/A
TAGS: CENTO
SUBJECT: CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL'S ANNUAL VISIT

1. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE POSITION OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE AUGUST 1, WE ARE IN RECEIPT OF A LETTER FROM THE CENTO SECRETARIAT PROPOSING PRELIMINARY DATES FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ANNUAL VISIT TO MEMBER CAPITALS. A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL INFORMS US THAT IT IS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL SIRDAR HASAN MAHMUD (PAKISTAN) WILL MAKE THE PROPOSED ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. THE CENTO SECRETARIAT PROPOSES THAT FOR CONVENIENCE AND
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ECONOMY THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL VISIT ISLAMABAD FEB. 10-15 AND TEHRAN FEB. 16-21 OR VICE VERSA, TEHRAN FEB. 11-16 AND ISLAMABAD FEB. 17-21. AFTER RETURNING TO ANKARA FOR ESSENTIAL CENTO BUSINESS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH VISITS TO WASHINGTON MARCH 5-9, NEW YORK MARCH 9-12, LONDON MARCH 13-15, AND BRUSSELS ENROUTE BACK TO ANKARA. ALTERNATIVELY, THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSES LONDON

DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 6 AND WASHINGTON DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 13. THE LONDON AND WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS NEED NOT BE DONE IN TANDEM AND COULD BE SCHEDULED SEPARATELY IF EARLY MARCH IS INCONVENIENT.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFIED IN THE CENTO LETTER, WE ASSUME THAT THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD FOLLOW THE PAST PRACTICE FOR FORMER SEC GEN BAYULKEN AND REQUEST CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE JOINT CHIEFS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS WASHINGTON AND LONDON CONSULTATIONS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATION, SIRDAR HASAN MAHMUD, AND BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT PATRICK METCALFE (U.K.) IN TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE APPRECIATE THE DIFFICULTY OF EVEN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULING WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS THIS FAR IN ADVANCE, ESPECIALLY FOR A SECRETARY GENERAL WHO HAS NOT BEEN NAMED. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE USEFUL IF WE COULD TELL CENTO THAT ONE OR ALL OF THE PERIODS THEY PROPOSE FOR WASHINGTON IS CONVENIENT IN PRINCIPLE BUT THAT SPECIFIC APPOINTMENTS CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL THE NEW SEC GEN IS APPOINTED AND THE TIME OF HIS VISIT DRAWS NEARER.
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